

SIMPLE TENSES

If you want to speak in English learn the tenses ok

Simple present past and future – three are basic ok -2

English is an art	}	-2	- If you.....
Learn by heart			

Pronoun with v1 makes the present tense

I you they we	-	come and play	}	-2	- If you.....
He she it	-	comes and plays			

Pronoun with v2 makes the past tense-2

I you we they went and ate	}	-2	- If you.....
he she it said and sat.			

Pronoun will shall v1 makes the future tense -2

I we shall play with clay	}	-2	- If you.....
you we they he won't delay			

Present Tense

The simple present tense in English is used to describe an action that is regular, true or normal.

We use the present tense:

1. For repeated or regular actions in the present time period.

- I **take** the train to the office.
- The train to Berlin **leaves** every hour.
- John **sleeps** eight hours every night during the week.

2. For facts.

- The President of The USA **lives** in The White House.
- A dog **has** four legs.
- We **come** from Switzerland.

3. For habits.

- I **get up** early every day.
- Carol **brushes** her teeth twice a day.
- They **travel** to their country house every weekend.

4. For things that are always / generally true.

- It **rains** a lot in winter.
- The Queen of England **lives** in Buckingham Palace.
- They **speak** English at work.

In general, in the third person singular **he, she, it** we add 'S' in the third person.

Subject	Verb	The Rest of the sentence
I / you / we / they	speak / learn	English at home
he / she / it	speaks / learns	English at home

The spelling for the verb in the third person differs depending on the ending of that verb:

1. For verbs that end in **-O, -CH, -SH, -SS, -X, or -Z** we add **-ES** in the third person.

- go – goes
- catch – catches
- wash – washes
- kiss – kisses
- fix – fixes
- buzz – buzzes

2. For verbs that end in a **consonant + Y**, we remove the **Y** and add **-IES**.

- marry – marries
- study – studies
- carry – carries
- worry – worries

NOTE: For verbs that end in a **vowel + Y**, we just add **-S**.

- play – plays
- enjoy – enjoys
- say – says

Negative Sentences in the Simple Present Tense

To make a negative sentence in English we normally use Don't or Doesn't with all verbs EXCEPT **To Be** and **Modal verbs** (can, might, should etc.).

- Affirmative: You speak French.
Negative: You **don't** speak French.

You will see that we add **don't** between the subject and the verb. We use **Don't** when the subject is **I, you, we** or **they**.

- Affirmative: He speaks German.
Negative: He **doesn't** speak German.

When the subject is **he, she** or **it**, we add **doesn't** between the subject and the verb to make a negative sentence. Notice that the letter **S** at the end of the verb in the affirmative sentence (because it is in third person) disappears in the negative sentence. We will see the reason why below.

Negative Contractions

Don't = Do not

Doesn't = Does not

I **don't** like meat = I **do not** like meat.

There is no difference in meaning though we normally use contractions in spoken English.

Word Order of Negative Sentences

The following is the word order to construct a basic negative sentence in English in the Present Tense using **Don't** or **Doesn't**.

Subject	don't/doesn't	Verb*	The Rest of the sentence
I / you / we / they	don't	have / buy eat / like etc.	cereal for breakfast
he / she / it	doesn't		

* Verb: The verb that goes here is the base form of the infinitive = The infinitive without TO before the verb. Instead of the infinitive **To have** it is just the **have** part.

Remember that the infinitive is the verb before it is conjugated (changed) and it begins with **TO**. For example: to have, to eat, to go, to live, to speak etc.

Examples of Negative Sentences with Don't and Doesn't:

- You **don't** speak Arabic.
- John **doesn't** speak Italian.
- We **don't** have time for a rest.
- It **doesn't** move.
- They **don't** want to go to the party.
- She **doesn't** like fish.

Sample Questions	Short Answer (Affirmative)	Short Answer (Negative)
Do you like chocolate?	Yes, I do.	No, I don't.
Do I need a pencil?	Yes, you do.	No, you don't.
Do you both like chocolate?	Yes, we do.	No, we don't.
Do they like chocolate?	Yes, they do.	No, they don't.
Does he like chocolate?	Yes, he does.	No, he doesn't.
Does she like chocolate?	Yes, she does.	No, she doesn't.
Does it have four wheels?	Yes, it does.	No, it doesn't.

Simple Past Tense

Finished events in the past with no connection to the present:

Leonardo **painted** the Mona Lisa.

The Vikings **invaded** Britain.

With a finished time word (yesterday, last week, at 2 o'clock, in 2003):

I **went** to the cinema yesterday.

We **visited** Japan in 2007.

For stories / lists of events:

He **went** to a café, **sat** down and **lit** a cigarette.

Yesterday I **went** to the library, **met** a friend for lunch, and **played** tennis.

Details of news:

I've hurt my leg. I **fell** off a ladder when I was painting my bedroom.

I've been on holiday. I **went** to Spain and Portugal.

As part of the [second conditional](#):

If I **won** the lottery, I would buy a house in Chelsea.

If she **knew** his number, she would call him.

Future – Will

We use this English verb tense:

1. **With a future time word, (and often with 'by') to talk about an action that will finish before a certain time in the future, but we don't know exactly when.**

By 10 o'clock I will have finished my homework. (=I will finish my homework some time before 10, but we don't know exactly when)

By the time I'm sixty, I will have retired. (= I will retire sometime before

I'm sixty. We don't know exactly when, but definitely before my sixtieth birthday)

2. As **the** future perfect continuous, **but with** stative verbs.

Here's the **positive** form (it's just 'will' + infinitive):

- I will meet him later (I'll ..)
- You will come (you'll..)
- It will rain tomorrow (it'll)
- She will be late (she'll..)
- He will help us later (he'll..)
- We will get married in September (we'll)
- They will cook dinner (they'll..)

The short form: **'ll** is very, very common, and is almost always used when speaking. It's really much more natural to say 'I'll' instead of 'I will'. Here's some help with the pronunciation:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • I'll meet him later | • She'll be late |
| • You'll come | • He'll help us later |
| • It'll rain tomorrow | • We'll get married in September |
| • | • They'll cook dinner |

Next, here's the **negative** form (just add 'not' - remember will not = won't):

- | | |
|--|---|
| • I will not go (I won't ..) | • He will not pass the exam (he won't ..) |
| • You will not be late (you won't ..) | • We will not come (we won't..) |
| • It will not snow tomorrow (it won't..) | • They will not stop (they won't ..) |
| • She will not get the job (she won't..) | |

Finally, here's the **question**:

'yes / no' questions:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Will I go? | • Will he arrive soon? |
| • Will you come early? | • Will we cook? |
| • Will it be cold? | • Will they leave? |
| • Will she dance? | |

'wh' questions:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| • Where will I go? | • Why will you come early? |
|--------------------|----------------------------|

- When will it be cold?
- Who will she dance with?
- What time will he arrive?
- What will we cook?
- When will they leave?

We use the simple future for:

1. **A decision at the moment of speaking:**
A: 'I'm cold'.
B: 'I'll close the window'.
2. **Prediction based on opinion:**
I think the Conservatives will win the next election.
3. **A future fact:**
The sun will rise at 7am.
4. **Promises / requests / refusal / willingness:**
I'll help you with your homework.
Will you give me a hand?
I will give up smoking!
5. **In the same way as the future continuous, but with state verbs:**
I'll be at the station when you arrive.

'**Shall**' is used mainly in the forms 'shall I ?' and 'shall we?' in British English. These forms are used when you want to get someone's opinion, especially for offers and suggestions:

- Shall I open the window? (=do you want me to open the window).
- Where shall we go tonight? (=what's your opinion?).

We use 'be going to' + infinitive for:

1. **Future plans made before the moment of speaking:**
A: 'We've run out of milk.'
B: 'I know, I'm going to buy some.'
2. **Prediction based on present evidence:**
Look at those boys playing football! They're going to break the window.